



FY 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for the City of Dunkirk, New York

Introduction

The City of Dunkirk, New York has been, and is, a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The City's Department of Development is responsible for managing and overseeing these funds in partnership with the Mayor and City Council, Fiscal Affairs Office, and Treasurers office. In 2010 the City will benefit from continuity of both structure and personnel in place from 2009; the City of Dunkirk is looking forward to having a successful 2010 program year. The Action plan includes the dollar amounts allocated and is arranged under their appropriate CDBG categories. The total of **\$574,750** is our estimated entitlement for FY 2010.

The City will be focusing its efforts in 2010 on the 3 main program goals supported by HUD which are promoting: **Decent Housing, a Suitable Living Environment, and Expanding Economic Opportunities**. The city will focus its attention on targeted areas and will coordinate activities within these target areas in order to provide more comprehensive housing rehabilitation, neighborhood and public facility improvements, economic development opportunities and youth and senior services.

Areas will be targeted for comprehensive rehabilitation, upgrading, and/or street improvements in our designated Target Area and elsewhere in the City. Discussions are continuing with the Code Enforcement Officer in order to coordinate projects in areas where there are a number of substandard dwellings and/or businesses. Economic Development, Public Service, Public Facility, and Housing improvements will be the major categories of the City's activities in 2010.

We are optimistic that through the assistance of HUD and the partnerships we have in place with the various community agencies and sub-recipients, we will be able to create a better living standard for the low-moderate income city residents and the overall economic climate of which we are all seeking to improve.



City of Dunkirk's CDBG FY 2010 Annual Action Plan

The City of Dunkirk's FY 2010 Annual Action Plan is being prepared according to priorities and needs specified at the two public meetings held in the City this past fall and in its proposed 2008-2012 Consolidation Plan. These priorities and needs will be addressed in 2010 with the following types of programs and projects, and are outlined in further detail below.

- **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES (\$257,500)**
- **DECENT HOUSING (\$133,750)**
- **SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT (\$76,000)**
- **ADMINISTRATION (\$87,500)**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NEEDS RELATING TO JOB CREATION AND BUSINESS GROWTH

The City identified sufficient living wage jobs as a priority need in 2003 and this continues to be a pressing need in the City. In the past, the City has utilized CDBG funds for economic development activities to mostly retain jobs and support the expansion of existing industrial and commercial businesses. As previously disclosed the fruits of these labors were seen in 2007 and 2008 with the ground breaking on the approximately \$5 million SUNY Technology Incubator as well as the completion of the Chadwick Bay Lofts project both of which are located within the City's target area. In 2009 we were fortunate to see the SUNY Incubator open for business and new projects begin to attract and retain jobs that include the Brownfield Redevelopment of the Alumax and Roblin Steel sites and the retention of Remtronics to a new facility within the City of Dunkirk. These projects are expected to begin in earnest in 2010 and will rely in part on CDBG assistance to make them economically viable and provide expanded employment opportunities.

The year 2010 looks to be a critical year for economic development as the City attempts to continue the positive momentum in the midst of a deep economic crisis affecting a substantial amount of state funding available. For these reason the City seeks to continue to utilize its CDBG funds for economic development activities.

- **Economic Development Agency Funding (\$180,000)**
- **Commercial Façade Improvement Program (\$45,000)**
- **Commercial Demolition & Acquisition (\$25,000)**
- **Dunkirk Brain Gain/ENET Skill Building for the Future (\$7,500)**

Economic Development Agency Funding (Economic Development)

Monies allocated to this program will be utilized to support the For Profit Assistance initiatives of the City of Dunkirk and its Development Partner the Dunkirk Local Development Corporation. This funding will be used for loans for eligible businesses through the revolving



loan fund, grant and other financial incentives for business and employment expansion opportunities, Waterfront redevelopment initiatives including debt service, property acquisition, and investment and the combating of blight and slums within the commercial and industrial areas of Dunkirk.

Commercial Façade Improvement Program (Economic Development)

The commercial façade program is used to assist commercial property owners revitalize their store fronts. Applications are kept in the Department of Development office and eligible business located within the Target Area or that otherwise directly serve or employ the low to moderate income citizens of Dunkirk are eligible to apply for a 50% matching grant up to \$15,000 to upgrade their facilities.

Commercial Demolition and Acquisition (Economic Development)

Clearance and demolition of blighted commercial properties, either because of on-going neglect, fire and/or other emergency situations, will continue. We have proposed \$25,000 of our FY 2010 allocation towards this activity. These funds will be used in targeted areas that have been identified as areas that have potential or are currently in the process of being developed.

Dunkirk Brain Gain/ENET Skill Building for the Future (Economic Development)

A continuation of the successful 2008 and 2009 Brain Gain, this program will concentrate on the fields of manufacturing, healthcare and tourism. Students will gain hands on experience in these growing, local fields.

DECENT HOUSING

The City always needs and allocates funds towards owner-occupied rehabilitation activities. In 2009 the City released a new streamline housing rehab program targeted to more quickly and efficiently get housing rehab dollars working for those resident that are in greatest need. In 2010 the City is continuing its focus on this successful program. The city is hoping to impact 25 homes with these funds.

The program will again focus on maximizing its CDBG expenditures, and affecting a positive change upon the greatest number of Dunkirk Residents.

Along with owner occupied rehabilitation, the Department of Development will be working with the Code Enforcement officer to improve the housing stock and affordability in the City.

- **Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program (\$82,500)**
- **Community Smoke Detector Program (\$1,250)**
- **Residential Demolition & Acquisition (\$40,000)**



- **Home Rehabilitation-Homeownership through Renting (\$15,000)**
- **Sidewalk Replacement (\$15,000)**

Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program (Housing Rehabilitation)

The City will allocate \$82,500 to the extremely successful owner occupied rehab program. In 2009, the City rehabbed over 30 homes through its program, investing nearly \$200,000 to local contractors doing this work. In 2010, the City hopes to rehabilitate additional 10-15 homes.

Community Smoke Detector Program (Housing Rehabilitation)

The Dunkirk Fire Department currently provides a limited number of Smoke and CO2 detectors to low income families throughout the City. This funding will allow for the purchase and distribution of approximately 40 additional units to income qualified residents.

Residential Demolition and Acquisition (Housing Rehabilitation)

Clearance and demolition of uninhabitable residential properties, either because of on-going neglect, fire and/or other emergency situations, will continue. We have proposed \$40,000 of our FY 2010 allocation towards this activity. These funds will be used in targeted areas that have been identified as areas that have potential or are currently in the process of being rehabilitated and revived.

Home Rehabilitation-Homeownership through Renting (Housing Rehabilitation)

This program will allow the sub-recipient, Chautauqua Opportunities, to acquire single family homes, rehabilitate them, and turn them into rental properties, with the goal of renting to low- to mod- income families. A portion of the rent will go towards future ownership of the home to the family.

Sidewalk Replacement (Public Facility)

The City of Dunkirk utilizes the sidewalk replacement monies to replace worn and deteriorated sidewalks located throughout the Target Area. In 2010 the City of Dunkirk is committing \$15,000 of this allocation to revitalize City sidewalks.

SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

The City's overall focus to concentrate on specific areas for rehabilitation projects includes a suitable living environment as well.

In the past the city has funded streetscape projects, trees and water and sewer lines. However, after reviewing the various activities, the City has taken a more concentrated, comprehensive look at what it wants to accomplish with its future CDBG funding.



Again, rather than just “hitting” spots that need to be addressed, the City wants to concentrate the majority of its efforts on specific areas in the Target Area that need more comprehensive suitable living environment. Therefore, we are proposing that our FY2010 funding include activities for:

- **Code Enforcement (\$35,000)**
- **Streetscape Improvements (\$20,000)**
- **Dunkirk Little League (\$500)**
- **Summer Better than Others Day Camp (5,000)**
- **Boys & Girls Club (4,000)**
- **Sports Clinics (\$1,000)**
- **Crime Awareness & Prevention (4,000)**
- **Cool School-Reading Enrichment Program (\$500)**
- **Senior Nutrition Program-Meals on Wheels (\$6,000)**

Code Enforcement (Public Service)

Code enforcement is an absolute necessity and the City will allocate \$35,000 of its FY2010 allocation towards this activity. The City uses these funds for a code enforcement assistant, whose primary responsibility is to canvass the City’s targeted area for code violations and to issue citations when they do exist.

The FY2009 report from the Code Enforcement Officer stated that over 1,000 violations citations were issued, of which over 650 were corrected and approximately 350 were in progress. These results have been due to the efforts of CDBG funds allocated towards an on-going code position to assist with code enforcement compliance of exterior conditions.

Streetscape Improvements (Public Facility)

Funds allocated to this program are used to improve the community areas and street “scenes” throughout the City. Examples of activities funded in the past have included improved handicapped accessibility, park benches, and tree planting.

Dunkirk Little League – Equipment Program (Public Service)

The Dunkirk Little League does not restrict entry to only those individuals that can afford the entry fee. In fact the organization allows for free or reduced charges to those families that cannot afford the program. This funding will allow the league to provide minimal equipment to these participants as well as reduced registration fees.

Summer Better than Others Day Camp (Public Service)

The City of Dunkirk provides free or low cost camp educational experiences to the youth of the community. This funding provides transportation and other activities to those students who would not otherwise be able to participate in these programs.



Triple Play-Boys & Girls Club (Public Service)

Triple Play is a program designed to promote health and wellness and is designed to help young people to become healthy, active and learn ways to handle street, form positive relationships and maintain a healthy body.

Basic Sports Developmental Clinics (Public Service)

The City of Dunkirk Recreation program provides low cost sports development clinics throughout City. The proper development and social skills development offered by youth sports have proven very beneficial. This funding allows for a subsidy for low to moderate families.

Crime Awareness and Prevention Services (Public Service)

This activity provides the basis for the Dunkirk Police Department's National Night out Programming which is geared toward low income children and families.

Cool School-Reading Enrichment Program (Public Service)

This program provides a reading enrichment program to further educate the children in the City of Dunkirk.

Senior Nutrition Program (Public Service)

This program is facilitated throughout the local Meals on Wheels chapter and provides hot meals to elderly or other home bound residents that otherwise could not afford proper meals.

Conclusion

HUD representatives and personnel from other communities have spent time with some of the City's CDBG personnel in order to give us information on their programs and suggestions on how to run our program so we have more flexibility in meeting real situations that occur throughout the year.

We are always striving to improve our overall administration of the program and have created a structure and environment that is allowing us to conduct a better, more efficient and effective way of working with CDBG funding. We are confident that 2010 will prove to be a successful year and look forward to implementing our **ACTION PLAN** to better serve the low-moderate income city residents and improve the overall quality of life in Dunkirk.